

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----068025 180852Z /15

O 180742Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8204

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6960

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

JIDDA FOR NEWSOM FROM HUMMEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR MNUC TECH MILI PK FR US
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR REPROCESSING: FRENCH AND US DEMARCHES 17 AND 18
JULY

1. SUMMARY: JACOMET SAW MFA AND PAK AEC OFFICIALS JOINTLY JULY 18 AND DELIVERED THE FIRM MESSAGE THAT GOF HAS DECIDED NOT TO BUILD THE REPROCESSING PLANT. THE ONLY ITEM IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS THAT HE WITHHELD (WISELY) WAS THE THREAT TO MAKE PUBLIC THE PAST PAK REFUSAL TO CONSIDER CO-PROCESSING AND GEN ZIA'S STATEMENT TO SAUDI MAGAZINE ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH JACOMET, AMB THIS MORNING MADE DEMARCHE THROUGH MFA FOR GEN ZIA URGING THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO HASTY PUBLIC STATEMENTS, NO PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT GOING IT ALONE, AND OUR HOPES FOR A PRIVATE ASSURANCE PAKISTAN WILL NOT GO IT ALONE, IN WHICH CASE USG COULD BEGIN PROCESS NECESSARY TO RESUME ASSISTANCE. AMB CAUGHT FONSEC JUST IN TIME, BEFORE HIS MEETING WITH GEN ZIA THIS NOON TO DECIDE ON GOP REACTION. JACOMET HAS ANOTHER MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW NOON. PAK INITIAL REACTION WAS SOMEWHAT BITTER, ACCUSATORY AND ARGUMENTATIVE, BUT THEY MADE NO THREATS OF GOING SECRET

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IT ALONE, AND EVEN HINTED AT SEPARATION OF REPROCESSING ISSUE FROM FRENCH COMMERCIAL AND MILITARY SALES. FRENCH AND US EMBASSIES REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH. END SUMMARY.

2. JACOMET TOLD ME THIS MORNING HE CARRIED OUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS IN FULL ON THE MORNING OF THE 17TH, AS YOU WERE AIRBORNE FOR KARACHI. MEETING INCLUDED MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN

AFFAIRS AGHA SHAHI, FONSEC SHAHNAWAZ, CHAIRMAN OF THE PAK ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION MUNIR KHAN, NAIZ NAIK, AND "TECHNICIANS".

3. JACOMET RECAPPED FRENCH-PAK NEGOTIATIONS, CONCLUDING THAT TALKS HAD REACHED "AN IMPASSE." ONLY SOLUTION FOR GOF IS TO "HALT ALL DELIVERIES OF SENSITIVE MATERIALS" AND "STOP ALL FORMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE PROJECT." HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PAKISTAN WOULD AGREE TO "STOP CONSTRUCTION." HE HELD OUT PROMISE OF FRENCH ASSISTANCE IN NUCLEAR AND OTHER (I.E. MILITARY SALES) AREAS. AND HE SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT PROJECT BE SET ASIDE FOR A FEW YEARS TO ALLOW INFCE PROCESS TO CARRY ON AND TECHNOLOGY TO ADVANCE TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE AT A FUTURE DATE ON REPROCESSING QUESTIONS.

4. REACTION ON PAK SIDE WAS CHARACTERIZED AS "SHOCK," "SURPRISE," AND DISAPPOINTMENT," BY FRENCH. AGHA SHAHI COMMENTED ON FRENCH INABILITY TO RESIST US PRESSURE (WHILE PAKISTAN, BRAZIL AND WEST GERMANY DO), ON LACK OF FRENCH RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND SOLEMN UNDERTAKINGS.

5. AGHA SHAHI SAID FLATLY THAT GOP COULD NEVER AGREE TO FRENCH PROPOSAL TO ACQUIESCE IN FRENCH REPUDIATION, WHICH WILL HAVE "WIDE REPERCUSSIONS" IN PAKISTAN. JACOMET REAFFIRMED THAT FRENCH DECISION IS FRENCH ALONE, NOT MADE UNDER US PRESSURE, THAT THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN DEAL IS FAR FROM PLAYED OUT, AND THAT THE GOF BELIEVES IT IS DOING THE CORRECT THING IN VIEW OF ITS CONCERNS ON
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NON-PROLIFERATION. HE CITED GEN. ZIA INTERVIEW IN SAUDI PUBLICATIONS "AN NODONA" AND "AL MEDINA" ON 8 JULY (SEPTTEL) AS SUPPORTING HIS CONCERN THAT PAKISTAN WOULD PROCEED TO A WEAPONS PROGRAM USING THE PLUTONIUM FROM THE REPROCESSING PLANT.

6. MEETING WENT ON FOR 75 MINUTES WITH INDIVIDUALS ON PAK SIDE CONVEYING DISAPPOINTMENT, ARGUING, AND PROBING. LITTLE NEW EMERGED BEYOND FONSEC'S COMMENT THAT ZIA QUOTE WAS "IRRELEVANT."

7. JACOMET CHARACTERIZED THE SESSION AS "ROUGH" AND "TOUGH," BUT CONCLUDED, "IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE." HE NOTED, ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, THAT GOP HAD:

--NOT COMMITTED ITSELF TO CARRYING ON ALONE; CLOSEST PAK SIDE CAME WAS MUNIR KHAN STATEMENT THAT PAKISTAN "IS NOT WITHOUT OTHER OPTIONS."

--EXPLICITLY DENIED ANY INTENTION TO "LINK" THIS MATTER WITH COOPERATION WITH FRANCE "IN OTHER FIELDS."

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8. JACOMET SAID HE CLOSED BY URGING PAKISTANIS TO THINK ABOUT WHAT HE HAD SAID AND TO THINK ABOUT THE WESTERN HELP THAT THEY CAN GET BEFORE GOP REACTS OR PUTS OUT PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HE DID NOT USE HIS AUTHORIZATION TO THREATEN THAT FRANCE TOO COULD GO PUBLIC, ALTHOUGH HE FEELS IT WAS IMPLICIT IN HIS REMARKS.

9. IN OUR DISCUSSION THIS MORNING, FRENCH SIDE WONDERED IF NOW WOULD NOT BE A GOOD TIME FOR ME TO WEIGH IN, WHILE PAKS ARE CONSIDERING REACTION AND BEFORE JACOMET'S NEXT MEETING WITH PAKS WHICH IS NOON 19 JULY, WITH GENERAL ZIA. I AGREED THE TIMING WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND THAT MY INSTRUCTIONS COVERED SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. I DISCUSSED WITH THE FRENCH THE FOLLOWING APPROACH, OBTAINED THEIR CONSENT, TELEPHONED FONSEC SHAHNAWAZ FOR AN APPOINTMENT, AND WAS GRANTED ONE IMMEDIATELY. IN SHAHNAWAZ'S OFFICE 30 MINUTES LATER, I DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

QUOTE: I HAVE THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT I DELIVER ON INSTRUCTIONS:

I UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY FROM THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE THAT
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THE FRENCH HAVE CONVEYED TO YOUR GOVERNMENT THEIR DECISION TO CANCEL THE REPROCESSING PLANT. AS YOU DELIBERATE ABOUT THAT,

MY GOVERNMENT WANTS YOU TO CONSIDER TWO POINTS THAT MR NEWSOM MADE EARLIER:

--IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE IF THERE IS NO HASTY PUBLIC STATEMENT, OR ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PROCEED TO BUILD A REPROCESSING PLANT ON ITS OWN, AND

--WE HOPE YOU CAN ASSURE THE US GOVERNMENT PRIVATELY THAT YOU HAVE NO INTENTION TO BUILD YOUR OWN PLANT.

IF YOU CAN DO THIS, WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO HELP PAKISTAN IN THE WAYS MR NEWSOM DESCRIBED. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE PAKISTAN LOSE BOTH THE PLANT AND THE BENEFITS THAT WOULD COME FROM NOT HAVING THE PLANT.

AFTER THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES THE US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY THAT IT HAS INFORMED YOUR GOVERNMENT (WHICH IT HAS NOT YET DONE) AWB AND PROVIDING YOUR STATEMENTS OR ACTIONS DO NOT POSE PROBLEMS FOR U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES -- THE US GOVERNMENT CAN BEGIN PROCEDURES TO RESUME ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN. UNQUOTE.

10. FONSEC'S REACTION WAS MEASURED AND CALM. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FRENCH HAD CONVEYED THE MESSAGE CANCELLING THE CONTRACT; HE SAID THERE REALLY WAS NOT MUCH TO TALK ABOUT AFTER JACOMET HAD CONVEYED HIS MESSAGE. HE CHARACTERIZED THE FRENCH EFFORT TO GET "COMMON AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE GOP AND THE GOF ON REPUDIATION A "STRANGE REQUEST," BASED ON A VERY "UNREALISTIC EXPECTATION." HE SAID REPUDIATING THE CONTRACT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN EASY FOR THE FRENCH BUT HE HAD REMINDED JACOMET THAT THE FRENCH ACTION WOULD BE AN "ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT" TO THE GOP HERE IN PAKISTAN.

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11. FONSEC SAID THE GOP HAS NOT YET FORMULATED ITS FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE FRENCH, THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH GENERAL ZIA ON THE SUBJECT WITHIN THE HOUR, AND THAT HE WOULD ENSURE THAT MY DEMARCHE WOULD BE PLACED BEFORE ZIA AT THAT TIME. HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, DEMARCHE, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA06960
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840163-2675
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780749/aaaabpag.tel
Line Count: 213
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 3e3a5171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1974370
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR REPROCESSING: FRENCH AND US DEMARCHES 17 AND 18 JULY
TAGS: TECH, PEPR, MNUC, MILI, PK, FR, US, (JACOMET, ANDRE)
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3e3a5171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014